

Churchill, Announcing Fall of Singapore, Remains Confident

Prime Minister Expected
To Give Parliament Fuller
Account of Disaster

(Text of Churchill Broadcast
on Page A-6.)

LONDON, Feb. 16.—Winston Churchill, standing before his people at one of the blackest hours of their history, has assured them that the United Nations "will be found fully capable of squaring all accounts" and the question before Britain today is how strong remains her faith in his leadership.

Although he bore a message of disaster, the Prime Minister declared that ultimately the overwhelming fact of the war would be that "the power of the United States and its vast resources . . . are in it with us."

It fell to the Prime Minister yesterday to broadcast to the empire the most dismal news for its people since Dunkerque:

"Singapore has fallen. All the Malay Peninsula has been overrun. That bare statement was all that Britain was told at the loss of her great fortress and the fate of her valiant defenders except for Japan's announcement that Singapore had surrendered unconditionally.

But Mr. Churchill frankly acknowledged it to be a "heavy and far-reaching defeat" and, though he was pleading for confidence, he told Britain in unvarnished words: "Other dangers far about us out there and none of the dangers which we have hitherto faced successfully at home and in the East are in any way diminished."

No Mention of Channel Battle. Loss of the island citadel, guardian of the gateway to the Indian Ocean and a rampart for the defense of the Netherlands Indies and Australia, came after a week of dismaying news for Britain, news which has loosed a cry of doubt in the empire.

The Prime Minister did not mention the feat of a German squadron in slipping home through the English Channel; he did not mention Japan's growing threat to Burma; he touched only briefly on the dark picture in Libya.

Some Britons regarded the government's silence on details of Singapore's downfall as a wise security measure for the present. Expecting Mr. Churchill to give Parliament a fuller account, possibly later in the week, they reserved judgment.

Churchill Facing Battle. There was abundant evidence that Mr. Churchill may be facing one of the stormiest political battles of his career when the House of Commons meets today.

Opposition elements were rallying steadily around Sir Stafford Cripps, the returned Ambassador to Moscow who has stayed outside the government as a critic.

Although the Prime Minister was expected to make a Brest of the Nazi battleships Gneisenau and Scharnhorst and the heavy cruiser Prinz Eugen in order to forestall criticism, it was probable that the opposition would try to get a general debate on both successes.

Even more than the defeat at Singapore which, after all, the empire had been prepared to hear, the people were smarting under the naval upset and in some quarters where Mr. Churchill's popularity had been strongest the Nazi ships' dash to freedom caused the greatest misgivings.

Press Voices Misgivings. With the exception of Lord Beaverbrook's Daily Express, however, all London newspapers which took a stand expressed misgivings and hinted at a rising clamor for change which may reach as far as Downing Street.

"We must endure anything, certainly," said the Daily Mail, "but to go on offering us tears, sweat and blood in monotonous gloom of stoical resignation is now seriously wrong with the conduct of the war as a whole."

The Daily Mail warned the Prime Minister that "if he does not make radical changes in the general direction of our war effort now, the day may come when these changes will be forced by the impact of further disasters."

Only the Express came to his support with the exhortation that "we must stand together under the great leader this land has produced for its trial."

Essence of Message. Essentially, this was the Prime Minister's message: Formidable as are the factors against Britain, they are outweighed by those in her favor. Therefore, the nation must preserve its unity and its confidence in itself.

He asked Britain to put "the good and the bad side by side and let us try to see exactly where we are."

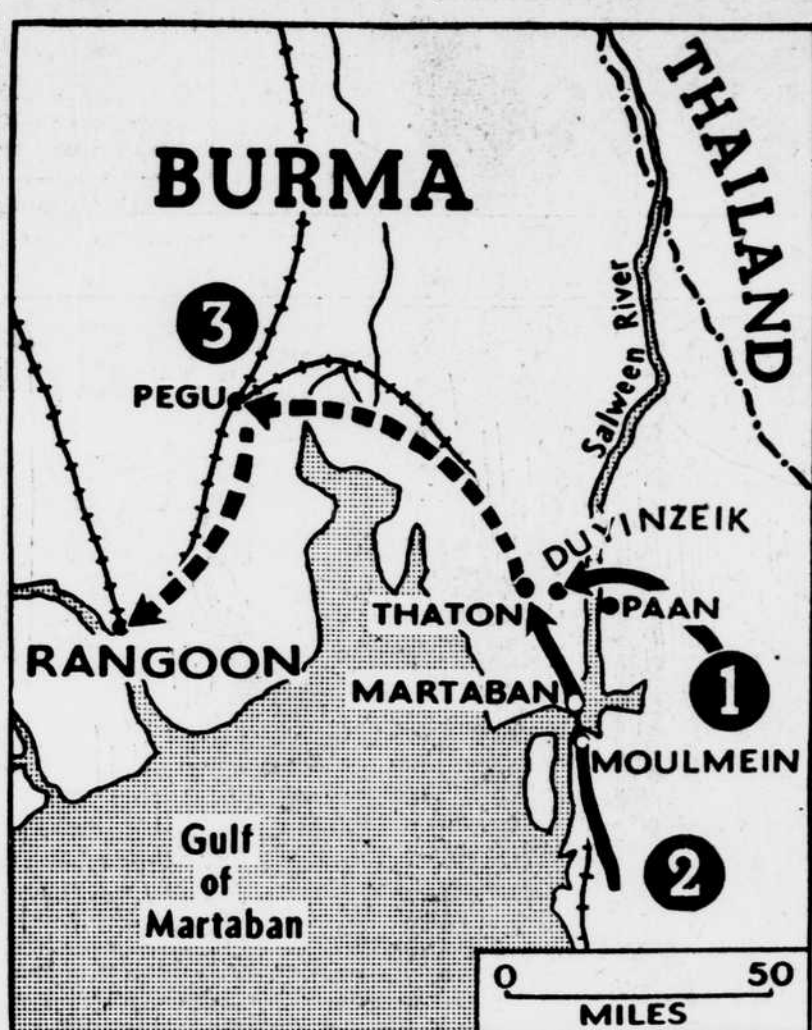
"The first and greatest of events," he began "is that the United States is now united and wholeheartedly in the war with us."

"I cannot believe there is any other fact in the whole world which can compare with that."

"That is what I have dreamed of, aimed at and worked for, and now it has come to pass."

Mr. Churchill also cited the might of Soviet Russia, whose example of unity amid adversity he laid before the British.

"The Russian armies have not been defeated," he said. "They have been advancing victoriously, driving the foul invader from that native soil they have guarded so bravely and loved so well."



JAPANESE STRIKE TOWARD RANGOON—Two columns of Japanese troops (solid arrows, 1 and 2) struck across Southern Burma toward Thantong today. Capture of Thantong would pave the way for Pegu (3) and Rangoon itself. The railroad which runs through Pegu carries war supplies to the north, where they are transferred to trucks for shipment over the Burma road into China.

the west, "could we have provided for the safety of the Far East against such an avalanche of fire and steel as has been hurled upon us by Japan?"

He acknowledged candidly that Japan, by plunging into the war, had put "another heavy and terrible blow to the account" he was rendering the empire.

Australians Favor Changes. First reactions from Australia echoed the London newspapers' demands that Mr. Churchill share his multitudinous duties, reshape his war cabinet along more compact lines with the ministers freed of departmental duties and shake out dead wood.

The Melbourne Argus was quoted as saying, under the heading "No Time for a One-Man Band," that "if Mr. Churchill accepts blame for major disasters and, at the same time, demands a vote of confidence, he is acting unfairly and puzzlingly."

The Melbourne Age said it would "be a grievous misjudgment to imagine that criticism of strategic direction is a symptom of defeatist spirit."

This, apparently, was in comment on Mr. Churchill's pointed observation that the Russians, in their direct peril, "did not fail to bicker among themselves" nor lose faith in their leaders and try to break up the government.

Registration
(Continued From First Page.)

entertain themselves at Calvin Coolidge High School, two of the woman registrars practiced first aid, tying hand bandages on each other.

Mobile Units Go on Call. In hospitals, in police stations, cell blocks and in the homes of the incapacitated prospective registrants, special registrars carried on the job of enrolling all men eligible for this registration. Mobile units attached to the school registration centers were dispatched on 50 calls during the morning. At Gallinger Hospital, registration was an all-day job.

Four colored prisoners spending the day in cells in the second precinct were scheduled to be registered this afternoon by the precinct commander, Capt. Jeremiah Sullivan.

They were coming in here and going out so fast today, Capt. Sullivan said, "I thought I better wait till things get settled down before registering the eligible ones. We have about 10 prisoners here on drunk and disorderly charges, but only four come within the age limits."

Like all other precinct commanders, Capt. Sullivan was sworn in by the registrar to sign up the day's prisoners.

Father and Son Register. A father and son registered at Taft Junior High School this morning and another father and son were to sign up later today. William McCall and William McCall, Jr., of 3725 Twenty-sixth street N.E.—the latter registering with his former school teacher, Miss M. H. Lippert—signed this morning.

Tonight Capt. Gilbert Cole, 42, of the District Fire Department and his 21-year-old son, Gilbert Cole, Jr., both of 1349 Franklin street N.E., will fill out their forms. Capt. Cole, a member of the American Legion, served in the last war.

Between the alien registration and the registration for selective service, one Central American was completely confused. He walked into "The Star" office with a newspaper clipping in his hand which explained which aliens had to register.

"I went to register," he said, "and they told me I didn't have to—I wasn't an enemy."

It turned out that he had tried to register at the City Post Office, alien registration center.

Refuses to Sign Card. At Stuart Junior High, a man refused to sign his card. The registrar simply made a notation on the card, leaving it to selective service officials to take appropriate action. The card, it was explained, is void without the signature. The man gave no explanation for his refusal to sign.

Andy McBride, 20, son of Brig. Gen. Allen McBride, field artillery chief of Gen. Douglas MacArthur's Philippine army, was one of the registrants at the Armory. He plans to volunteer for Army service without the next week. Young McBride, native of San Antonio, Tex., is living here with his mother at 2133 Tunlaw road N.W. He was graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1939.

His father was chief of staff of the Philippine department until the war broke out. Since then, as chief of field artillery, he has played an outstanding role in directing fierce artillery resistance against the Japanese on Bataan Peninsula.

Japanese in Burma Drive at Junction On Road to China

Offensive Appears to Be
Aimed at Pegu, Vital
Railway Point

By the Associated Press.

RANGOON, Burma, Feb. 16.—Two Japanese columns, supported by dive bombers and machine-gunning fighter planes, drove perilously close to Thantong today in a drive to choke off supplies to China over the winding Burma road.

Thantong is only 50 miles southwest of Pegu, important rail center on the Rangoon-Mandalay and Rangoon-Martaban lines, and it appeared that the invaders were aiming at the junction city. The fall of Pegu would cut the railway feeding the Burma road.

(A London military commentator said the fighting was "obscure" and that Thantong might now be in Japanese hands.)

Japanese spearheads converged on Thantong from Paan, 12 miles to the east, and from Martaban at the mouth of the Salween River, the now shattered first line of defense.

85 Miles From Rangoon. American and British planes made exhaustive efforts to punish the enemy wherever his supply lines were exposed. The battleground was only 85 miles from Rangoon and 125 miles by land and rail around the tide-swept Gulf of Martaban.

Rangoon newspapers complained of the "lack of objective information and constantly changing descriptions of the fighting" given by British Army communiques.

They said one day the position was called quiet and the next day evacuation of an important locality was disclosed.

The chief Japanese threat appeared to be developing in the vicinity of Duiyinzik, 6 miles east of Thantong, toward which one column was striking from a bridgehead on the west bank of the Salween River near Paan, about 6 miles farther east.

Troops Put Ashore. The other Japanese column was attempting to fight its way up the coast from Martaban, aided by landing parties put ashore from small boats in Martaban Gulf.

It was believed here the Japanese soon would be reinforced by troops released from Malaya by the fall of Singapore, and it appeared that the campaign in Burma was about to enter a critical phase.

For the time being, however, the defenders of Burma seemed to have virtual control of the air, and of the ground. Heavy bombing and machine-gunning attacks delivered on the invaders and their lines of communication during the week end.

Rangoon Free of Raids. Rangoon itself was free of air raids yesterday.

Most of the city's cosmopolitan civilian population, which in peacetime numbers about 400,000, already has been evacuated, however, to points of safety.

Many stores and places of business still are open as usual and two English daily newspapers are continuing to publish.

Port facilities are functioning without interruption, but only a few thousand dockhands and automobile maintenance crews are considered needed to keep them going.

Situation in Paan Area
Obscure, London Reports

LONDON, Feb. 16 (AP).—A military commentator said today the situation was obscure in the Paan sector of Burma's Salween River front and it was not known definitely whether the defense forces still held Thantong.

Thantong, 12 miles west of the river, is astride the main road around the Gulf of Martaban from Moulmein to Rangoon, 80 miles air line to the west.

He said that elsewhere on the Salween front there had been no further attacks.

Lothrop Stoddard to Talk
At Silver Spring Church

Lothrop Stoddard, author, lecturer and journalist, will be the speaker tonight at the meeting of the Men's Club at Grace Church, Silver Spring.

Mr. Stoddard, an authority on Far Eastern affairs, will discuss the latest developments in the battle between the United Nations and the Japanese.

In addition, there will be a talking picture in color giving the story of aluminum from its laboratory isolation down to present production and utilization.

Members of Congress Register With Oratory And Threats at Foe

Special Capitol Desk
Set Up for Legislators
Exempt From Service

With a bit of speech-making and assorted threats to "lick hell out of the Japs," members of Congress of selective service age registered in the Capitol grounds today. They are exempted by law from a call to service, however.

Chairman Randolph of the House District Committee was the first of a handful of Senators and scores of Representatives to report to the registration desk, discreetly screened from view in the rotunda and manned by American Legionnaires in uniform.

Just to be sure all was going well, Brig. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, National director of selective service, and District Selective Service Director William E. Leahy paid brief visits.

The special registration center, limited to members of Congress, was set up to prevent the registration from interfering with the business of running the government.

Dies Before Congress. Representative Dies of Texas, 41-year-old chairman of the House Committee Investigating Un-American Activities, and one of the early arrivals at the registration desk, said his son, Martin, Jr., 20, had volunteered last week for naval service.

"Between the two of us," he remarked, "we will lick hell out of those Japs."

Representative J. Percy Priest of Tennessee, former newspaper editor serving his first term in Congress, said he was "crowded in their offices, answering pension letters."

When several of the Representatives' friends asked him to put on an exhibition of native Tennessee folk dancing, at which he is something of a master, in front of the registration table, he answered, "This is no time for dancing except for a war dance."

Maybank Brings Papers. One of the Senate's youngest members, both in years and service, Senator Maybank of South Carolina, 42, brought with him his Navy discharge papers from the last World War.

"I thought I might need some of this information," he explained. Senator Maybank went on active duty as a naval reservist at the Norfolk Training Station and had just won a transfer to the Naval Air Corps when the last war ended.

Senator Pepper, Democrat, of Florida, 41, a veteran of two and a half months' service in the last war, was in the last in the line, and was inclined to make a little speech about this registration.

"The great democratic principle behind selective service is one of the fine things about this whole struggle," said the Senator. "I am impressed by the democratic spirit which pervades it and which I could be extended even further. In this national crisis it should be the rule to assign every man and woman to the place where he or she is best fitted. Everybody can and should do something."

Some Are Stopped. Some of the legislators were not recognized by policemen at the entrance to the registration section and had to stop and identify themselves. Representative Secret of Ohio was one of them.

Registration was a reunion for Representative Kilday, 41, of Texas and Director Leahy. Mr. Kilday was a 1922 graduate of Georgetown University law school, where he studied the rules of evidence in a class taught by Mr. Leahy.

Other congressional registrants during the morning were Senator Danaher of Connecticut and Representative Kefauver of Tennessee. Hess of Ohio, Gossney of Texas, Hebert of Louisiana, Mundt of South Dakota, Ford of Mississippi, Mills of Arkansas and Anderson of California.

The registration desk was to remain open until all the congressional registrants have answered the nine simple questions.

Women's Air Unit Asks
Man-Size Defense Job

By the Associated Press. ATLANTA, Feb. 16.—Feminine flyers are fit to fill a man-size job in civilian defense and want no "sex discrimination," declares the pilot-in-command of a women's squadron of the Civil Air Patrol.

"We have asked that there be no sex discrimination in C. A. P. flight missions," asserted Flight Commander Ann Johnson, "and I don't believe there will be any."

That tried the determined attitude of 35 young women who have volunteered here for service in the air arm of the Office of Civilian Defense.

Weather Report
(Published by the United States Weather Bureau.)

District of Columbia—Rain, with slowly rising temperature tonight; gentle to moderate winds.

Maryland—Rain with slowly rising temperature tonight; increasing winds.

Virginia—Rain, with somewhat higher temperatures tonight.

Lindbergh Registers for Draft With Handshakes All Around

Smiling Flyer Appears Unexpectedly
At Armory to Fill Out Questionnaire

(Picture on First Page.)

Charles Augustus Lindbergh, who resigned his commission as an Army colonel in April, 1941, registered for selective service today at the old National Guard Armory, local draft headquarters.

With a smile for every one, he refused to answer any questions except those on his selective service form. In an effort to dodge quizzing amiably he shook hands with The Star's reporter three times—at the desk, on the run and at the revolving door.

Unexpected was his appearance. Many in the armory did not notice him until photographic flash bulbs began exploding. Looking at least a decade younger than he is, the celebrated 40th birthday 12 days ago and clad in dark blue civilian garb, he laid his gray hat on the desk of Mrs. Mary M. Willhoite of the Jacob Jones American Legion Post and sat down briskly.

She could reveal none of his draft answers except that he gave no Washington address.

Working on Commercial Project. On January 15 Secretary of War Stimson announced that Mr. Lindbergh had been set to work on a "technical commercial project in which this department is directly interested." Where the project is

being carried on has been a public mystery.

When the flyer discarded his Army Air Corps commission he declared that President Roosevelt had questioned his "loyalty, character and motives" in a press conference. Mr. Lindbergh was top speaker for the America First Committee, and before joining that group had repeatedly told the United States it need fear no attack from the Axis.

He came back to town as an avowed war supporter on January 2, reportedly to regain his commission. After conferences with Secretary Stimson, Lt. Gen. H. H. Arnold, chief of the air forces, and Robert A. Lovett, Assistant Secretary of War for Air, the civilian assignment was announced.

Shakes Hands All Around. Asked today whether he hoped that his draft registration will now pull him into military duty, Mr. Lindbergh would not heed the question, but shook hands, expressing "pleasure" at the experience.

He shook hands with his registrar on leaving and Mrs. Willhoite said she expects great things of him. Then she put her spectacles on again and started questioning the next registrant, C. G. Rossby, a transient University of Chicago professor of meteorology.

Mr. Lindbergh was escorted out by Joe Abrams, vice commander of the George Washington Legion Post.

Communiques
Heavy Artillery
Fire in Bataan

The text of War Department communique No. 109, reporting on developments up to 9:30 a.m. today, follows:

"Philippine theater: 'There was heavy artillery fire in Bataan during the past 24 hours. Intermittent infantry fighting was in progress on several sections of the front.'

"Enemy aviation was active throughout the day. 'There is nothing to report from other areas.'

"Text of War Department communique No. 108, reporting the situation as of 1 p.m. yesterday, follows:

"Philippine theater: Fighting in Bataan was limited to local, unimportant patrol skirmishes. Forces of the enemy are evidently being regrouped for a resumption of the offensive. Japanese units on the front line which had suffered heavy casualties are being relieved by fresh troops."

"Gen. MacArthur is receiving frequent reports from the occupied areas which indicate the hostility of the Filipinos toward the invaders. A striking case has just been reported from the barrio of Batangas."

"The Japanese sought some one familiar with the roads of Batangas Province to drive a truck loaded with 24 Japanese soldiers. A local truck driver named Cueva volunteered for the task. When he came to a sharp curve he deliberately pushed the accelerator to the floor boards, plunging the truck over a cliff into an abyss. Cueva and 11 Japanese soldiers were killed and

Representative Beiter Corrects Statement On Friendship Sale

Declares His Criticism
Was Aimed Only at
Defense Homes Corp.

Representative Beiter, Democrat, of New York today corrected on the House floor certain statements he made last week in connection with the Friendship sale and property at 2000 Massachusetts avenue N.W., during debate on the Lannan housing bill. He had charged that the Defense Homes Corp. had purchased Friendship from Mrs. Evelyn Walsh McLean for \$1,000,000.

A statement Mr. Beiter read to the House follows:

"Mr. Speaker, in my remarks in the House on Wednesday last, relative to properties purchased by the Defense Homes Corp. for public housing, I mentioned that the estate on Wisconsin avenue, known as Friendship, was bought from Mrs. Evelyn McLean. I find that the property in question was purchased from the McLean estate, and I ask that this correction be noted."

"Likewise, I take this opportunity to correct my previous statement that the property at 2000 Massachusetts avenue is the property of Mrs. McLean. I find that this is rented by the Government from Mr. Henry Spencer at \$15,000 per annum."

"My statements were made solely in criticism of the Defense Homes Corp. It has been brought to my attention that comparable property is available on Wisconsin avenue in the vicinity of the McLean estate at considerably less than \$1,000,000. We all know that neither private industry nor the Government can provide housing for workers whose incomes are under \$2,000 by paying as much as \$5,000 per acre, yet \$13,000 per acre was paid for the McLean property."

Sky Called the Limit. "In the past few days I have been informed by local real estate operators that there is available on Wisconsin avenue 135 acres of land which can be purchased at \$2,000 per acre, or \$10,000 per acre less than the price at which the Government acquired Friendship."

"Congress may well consider these facts along with the feasibility of consolidating Government housing agencies in the interest of economy and efficiency. The Lannan Act imposes restrictions and limitations on costs on units constructed by the United States Housing Authority and the Public Buildings Administration. Apparently there are no such limitations imposed by the Defense Homes Corp. From what we have seen so far, it would appear that the sky is the limit!"

Norway Fortifications
Planned by Germany

By the Associated Press. LONDON, Feb. 16.—Reuters today quoted a Stockholm Tidningen dispatch from Berlin as reporting that Adolf Hitler had ordered his new Munitions Minister, Albert Speer, to begin immediate construction of fortifications on the Norwegian coast.

The dispatch said this indicated the Germans expected the British to choose Norway as the place for any attempt to regain a foothold on the continent.

Speer, general director of building in all Germany, was named Munitions Minister a week ago, succeeding the late Maj. Gen. Fritz Todt.

Congress in Brief
By the Associated Press.

In recess. Military Affairs Subcommittee nominations. Appropriations Subcommittee renews study of independent offices appropriations.

House. Considers State, Justice and Commerce Departmental Appropriations Committees. Ways and Means Committee hears Governors of Massachusetts, North Carolina and Minnesota on \$300,000,000 measure to provide benefits for war-made jobs.

STORE HOURS—9:30 A.M. UNTIL 6 P.M.

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